



June 5, 2013

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member, United States House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Thompson:

On behalf of the National Rural Education Association, I wish to express the Association's gratitude for your introduction of the All Children are Equal (ACE) Act.

The ACE Act will end discrimination against small school districts in the formula for distributing Title I funds.

ACE addresses the negative effects of a provision in the law that was intended to send more money per disadvantaged student to school districts with the highest concentrations of such students. Unfortunately, the current formula does not actually serve this worthy purpose.

The current formula takes money from smaller districts, no matter how high the percentage of disadvantaged students, and sends it to larger districts no matter how low their poverty rate.

More than 10,000 school districts lose funding because of number weighting. Most high-poverty rural districts lose funding. Very large suburban districts with low poverty rates but large numbers of students are among the biggest winners due to number weighting.

Each child of poverty should be treated equitably within the context of federal funding policy no matter where the child lives.

Thank you again for your commitment and support of this principle.

Sincerely,

John Hill, Executive Director

Executive Director

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The National Voice For Rural Schools and Their Communities

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